

Appn. Serial No. 09/752,018
Filed December 28, 2000
Amendment of March 9, 2004

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of February 20, 2004. Reconsideration of claims 1-7 and allowance of claims 1-14 are requested.

The Office Action

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for the use of the word "comprises" in the abstract. The abstract has been amended to use the word "includes." It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Willibrordus, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,514,932).

The Claims Distinguish Patentably Over the References of Record

Claim 1 has been amended to recite an electrodeless low-pressure discharge lamp which includes a UV-to-visible converting layer applied only to a surface of the bulb, the surface of the bulb being free of a UV reflecting layer.

Willibrordus, et al. does not disclose such a lamp. Willibrordus discloses a luminescent layer only in association with an electrode-containing lamp (FIG. 1). There is no mention of using the luminescent layer in an electrodeless lamp, such as that of FIGURE 3. Moreover, Willibrordus discloses the luminous layer of a conventional electrode-containing lamp as covering a reflector layer, while leaving a window free or, in the alternative, as covering a reflector layer and also a window (col. 4, lines 34-41). There is no suggestion in Willibrordus of providing a UV-to-visible conversion layer only on the bulb and not on the reflector layer. Apparently, Willibrordus uses the luminous layer to convert the light to a wavelength at which it can be reflected by the reflector layer.

There is no suggestion in Willibrordus, et al. of providing a UV reflector layer on a surface of a bulb of an electrodeless lamp which does not also cover a reflector layer. To the extent that Willibrordus provides any teaching to use the luminescent layer in the electrodeless lamp of FIGURE 3, Willibrordus would teach covering the entire area of reflector layer 106, including on the portion 105 and on the bulb 101a, with the luminescent layer, optionally leaving any areas of bulb 101a not covered with the reflector layer free of luminescent material.

The present inventors have found that a UV-to-visible layer converting

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layer on the reentrant portion creates heat which can be damaging to the components of the reentrant tube. The claimed discharge lamp with the UV to visible layer only on the bulb surface, results in an increase in the reliability and lifetime of the lamp.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, are patentable over the reference of record.

New claim 8 recites an electrodeless low-pressure discharge lamp with an UV-to-visible-converting layer applied to a surface of the bulb portion and a UV reflecting layer applied to a surface of the reentrant tube. The surface of the reentrant tube is free of the UV-to-visible-converting layer.

There is no suggestion in Willibrordus of providing an electrodeless lamp which includes a UV layer on the bulb surface and not in association with a UV reflective layer on the reentrant tube. To the extent that Willibrordus provides any teaching to use the luminescent layer in the electrodeless lamp of FIGURE 3, Willibrordus would teach covering the entire area of reflector layer 106, including on the portion 105 and on the bulb 101a, with the luminescent layer, optionally leaving any areas of bulb 101a not covered with the reflector layer free of luminescent material.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 8, and dependent claims 9-14, are patentable over Willibrordus.

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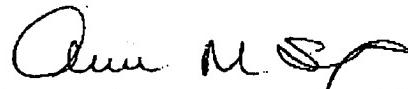
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1-14 (all claims) distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Ann Skerry at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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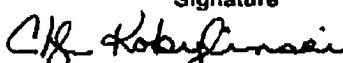


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